

## **CLAIMS**

1. (previously presented) A mobile alerter for a mobile communication device, said mobile alerter comprising:

- a processor;
- a power supply;
- a wireless receiver to communicate with said mobile communication device;
- notification hardware for triggering a notification of an incoming alert; and
- a connection interface for removably connecting said mobile alerter to a host connection interface of a cavity of said mobile communication device;

said mobile alerter forming the notification unit of said mobile communication device such that

when said mobile communication device determines that said mobile alerter is in a tethered mode in which said alerter is inserted into said cavity of said mobile communication device such that said connection interface is coupled with said host connection interface, said mobile alerter outputs notification alerts for said mobile communication device triggered when a notification message is received from said mobile communication device by said mobile alerter via said connection interface, and

when said mobile communication device determines that said mobile alerter is in an un-tethered mode in which said alerter is not inserted into a cavity of said mobile communication device, said mobile alerter outputs notification alerts for said mobile communication device triggered when a notification message is received from said mobile communication device by said mobile alerter via said wireless receiver.

2. (previously presented) The mobile alerter of claim 1, wherein said notification hardware comprises at least one type of hardware selected from the following group: a speaker, a vibrator, and a light.

3. (previously presented) The mobile alerter of claim 1, wherein said power supply comprises a battery.

4. (previously presented) A system for receiving notifications on a mobile alerter comprising:

- a mobile alerter as claimed in claim 1; and
- a mobile communication device comprising
  - a processor,
  - a wireless communication means to communicate with a wireless network,
  - a wireless transmitter for communication with a wireless network,
  - a wireless receiver for communication with a wireless network,
  - a wireless transmitter for communication with said mobile alerter,
  - a housing with a cavity for receiving said mobile alerter, and
  - a host connection interface for receiving said mobile alerter.

5. (previously presented) The system of claim 4, wherein said wireless communication means comprises at least one form of communication means selected from the following group: a voice communication means, and a data communication means.

6. (previously presented) The system of claim 4, wherein said host connection interface comprises at least one form of interface selected from the following group: a serial interface, a parallel interface, a USB interface, a Firewire interface, and a wireless interface.

7. (previously presented) A method for receiving notifications on a mobile alerter, said mobile alerter removably connectable to a mobile device, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a first notification message on a mobile communication device from a wireless network;

- said mobile communication device determining if said mobile alerter is in a tethered mode in which said alerter is inserted into a cavity of said mobile communication device such that a connection interface of said mobile alerter is coupled to a host connection interface of said mobile communication device, or in an un-tethered mode in which said alerter is not inserted into a cavity of said mobile communication device; and

- sending out a second notification message from said mobile communication device to said mobile alerter, said mobile alerter forming the notification unit of said mobile communication device such that

  - when said mobile communication device determines that said mobile alerter is in a tethered mode, said mobile alerter outputs notification alerts for said mobile communication device triggered when a second notification message is received from said mobile communication device by said mobile alerter via said connection interface, and

  - when said mobile communication device determines that said mobile alerter is in an un-tethered mode, said mobile alerter outputs notification alerts for said mobile communication device triggered when a second notification message is received from said mobile communication device by said mobile alerter via a wireless receiver;

- receiving said second notification message on said mobile alerter; and
- triggering notification hardware to alert a user of said second notification message received by said mobile alerter of said mobile communication device.

8. (cancelled).

9. (currently amended) The ~~mobile communication device~~ system of claim 4, wherein the connection interface of the mobile device is located within the cavity of the housing of the mobile device, the cavity being adapted to slidably receive the mobile alerter.